Completion Report

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The Sumitomo Foundation Grant has given the researcher the exposure of the field of mobile assistive technology in developed countries in general and in Japan in particular. Through collaboration with the National Institute of Technology, Kagawa Professor Takajo Hideyuki as Advisor), the researcher had carried out research among dyslexic children in Japan on the use of "mobile assistive technology". Respondents were identified with the support of the Japan Dyslexia Association (Mrs. Eiko Todo as President of the Association).

Through The Sumitomo Foundation Grant, the researcher also taken the opportunity to visit Hiroshima University (Professor Kazuhito Ujima) to gain knowledge and experience regarding the university's latest research in the field of mobile assistive technology. The researcher also made an academic visit to Keio University (Professor Yasushi Nakano) to gain exposure to the latest research in the field of mobile assistive technology at the university.

10 respondents were selected, ages from 5 years until 8 years old from Tokyo, Kagawa and Hiroshima. Positively, majority of the respondents were able to apply what they have learned from the tactile letters and mobile application. The respondents have been given the tasks in writing and recognizing hiragana and katakana before and after the used of the interventions. In the beginning, most of them having difficulty in writing and recognizing the hiragana and katakana characters. However, after the interventions, their progress in recognizing the hiragana and katakana characters were progressively shown through the last evaluation test. Other than that, respondents were also asked about their experience in using the interventions and their feedback were positive.

In addition to the dyslexic children, perspectives from parents were also asked and the findings were also supportive. Conclusively, this study showed that majority of the dyslexic children and parents provided brightly positive feedback toward the combo inventions. These interventions showed that it is effective in teaching and learning hiragana and katakana characters for dyslexic children due to its specialty characteristics that has been customized to suit dyslexic children learning. Apart from that, this study also helps the researcher to analyze and identify the strength and weaknesses that can be improved to create a better intervention for the special children. There are more to learn, to discover and to improve to be able to create a perfect intervention for special need children. There were factors that should be consider before making the interventions, for example in terms of technology and tool preference which suits the culture. Nevertheless, this study gives more insight to research to be better, to learn, and discover more for future research and will be able to create a better learning world for special needs children. All the knowledge and skills that have been acquired through The Sumitomo Foundation Grant not only beneficial for the researcher but have the potential to be applied in Japan as well as to be used by other countries in supporting special education technology for people with disabilities.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.) (9 to 11 April 2022, Shimane University, 10th International Conference on Information and Education Technology , Mobile learning and Tactile letters as an Assistive Technology for Early Years Dyslexic Children, Mariam Mohamad) . The Sumitomo Foundation was acknowledged in the presentation orally and on the slides.
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) Nil
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.) Nil